STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

RE: MEDICAL CENTER URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AREA

BOOK No. 8.

(Newark City Hall, Thursday, June 29th, 1967)

WINARD & WINARD
24 COMMERCE STREET
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

NEWARK CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBER
ESSEX COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING IN RE:
CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF
CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY
OF NEWARK,

June 29, 1967
Newark, New Jersey

B E F O R E:

NEWARK PLANNING BOARD

JOSEPH A. COCUZZA, CHAIRMAN

AIDO GIACCHINO, SECRETARY

JOSEPH J. BRADLEY

HARRY McDOWELL

VINCENT CORRODO

I N D E X

Witness	Statement
RAJAN SALADEEN BEY	5
JAMES SIMMS	28
CLINTON BEY	47

MR. COCUZZA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. The blight hearing is being continued from the previous session which was held on the evening of June 22, 1967.

The secretary will please call the roll of the commissioners present.

THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: Here.

THE SECRETARY: Commissioner McDowell.

MR. MC DOWELL: Here.

THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Corrodo.

MR. CORRODO: Here.

THE SECRETARY: Chairman Cocuzza.

MR. COCUZZA: Here.

The chair wishes to make note of the fact that only four Board members are present and this hearing will continue nevertheless because the entire Board can and will evaluate and come to a conclusion after the evidence of all the sessions have been studied.

Since there are only a few present in these chambers, if there is anyone here present who has not spoken, will you step forward?

COLONEL HUSSEIN: Mr. Chairman, is it not true that in order for a public meeting to be

officially ensconced, that there must always be, since it is a governmental type body, there must always be a quorum present?

Did we have a quorum, Mr. Chairman?

MR. COCUZZA: Its nice to have five members of the Board or more, but its not required that we have five members, at least to conduct this hearing and the other members can reach a conclusion and evaluation of all of the testimony from the court reporter.

COLONEL HUSSEIN: Not to waste time, Mr. Cocuzza, this is not my intention, however concerning the meeting here, isn't it necessary or isn't it proper that a quorum be declared present?

Do we have a quorum here? This is all I want to ask. I want a direct answer to it because I am not trying to waste your time.

MR. COCUZZA: The Board considers through the Chairman that there are sufficient members present to conduct this hearing, therefore if you take an exception to it, you may so note it in the testimony and if you want to take legal action because of your thinking, you are free to do so.

COLONEL HUSSEIN: Again, one more time, Mr. Cocuzza, perhaps I am not making myself clear, I want to sincerely make myself clear, is it not the law that at a public meeting that a quorum be present before the meeting can be opened and if so, do we have a quorum present here? Those are the two questions, sir.

MR. COCUZZA: May I answer you, please.

The statute under which this ordinance is written does not request nor demand nor state in any manner that a quorum is necessary to conduct a proper hearing, that's the law.

COLONEL HUSSEIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, but I would like it to go into the record at this time that I am not quite clear as yet, my questions haven't been sufficiently answered but we won't dwell on it, so I will go on record as protesting to this meeting.

MR. COCUZZA: Just a minute, Colonel, I did personally before entering the chambers review the ordinance relating to blight hearings and other matters and it does not specifically state or request that a quorum be necessary for a blight hearing. Your exception is

noted.

COLONEL HUSSEIN: Thank you.

MR. COCUZZA: Is there anyone present who has not spoken and would like to speak, please step forward.

Please, sir, give your name and address to the reporter.

MR. BEY: My name is Rajan Saladeen Bey. I live at 278 West Kenney Street, Newark.

MR. COCUZZA: You have thirty minutes for your presentation, sir, please begin.

MR. BEY: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, I have sat here watching, I sat here and watched you play games, because that's what you're doing. You have stated--or shall I say Mr. Danzig has stated that there is adequate housing for the relocation of 30,000 people out of that area. This I do not think is so. In fact I know it is not so. The houses that you mentioned, the Hallmark House and the Collonade, the different middle income housing, if the people in this area could afford middle income housing, they would be staying there, but obviously they can't afford it. To get into one of those apartments

I think the lowest price is about $110, this is for about two rooms.

He also mentioned the so called low rent income housing. There's no room there. I know this because I live there.

It is also in one of your statutes that in order to relocate people in declaring an area blighted that you must have the same amount of housing, in fact decent housing for these people. This you don't have, not in the City of Newark. All you are doing is moving a ghetto from one part of the city into another part of the city, that's all you're doing. You also talk about narcotic addicts. OK, so what do you do, you move them from the central ward into another ward. What happens? In less than a year you have a worse ghetto, because all Newark is nothing but a ghetto. OK.

Mr. Danzig stated that you have ample housing. I would like to know how many people have been relocated so far. Can you answer me, Mr. Chairman? Can you answer me?

MR. COCUZZA: I am sorry, we don't have that answer at present. Continue.

MR. BEY: I have here a book before me how

the federal government builds ghettos. Its written by the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. The introduction so states:

"This pamphlet constitutes a charge by the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing that the Federal Government builds ghettos. It is primarily responsible for undergirding a ghetto system that dominates, distorts and despoils every aspect of life in the United States today.

"The ghetto system, nurtured both directly and indirectly by Federal power, has created racial alienation and tensions so explosive that the crisis in our cities now borders on catasprophe. It has excommunicated negro and other minority-group citizens from membership in the American community. It has isolated the white majority inside a world of conscious and subconscious racism.

"Housing segregation is at the root of the ghetto way of life and all of its attendant evils and turmoil. Witness the intolerable conditions of life in the impacted racial ghetto, and the inevitable hopelessness, bitter-

ness and rebellion of those who are imprisoned within its confines. Witness mounting strife over segregated, overcrowded, inherently unequal schools. Witness unemployment and under-employment of millions of nonwhites in the midst of unprecedented affluence among whites. Witness the appalling disparity in mortality and health statistics between the privileges and the discriminated against. Witness the widening breach between white suburbia and the inner city. Witness the deterioration and decay of the nation's cities, with their shrinking tax basis and expanding costs for essential services."

I'll leave the book now because I believe you get the point. The housing in that area we black people don't own the houses here, very few of us here do because you give us jobs and we can't afford to buy a house and the ones that do own the houses, what happened, they have long term mortgages of twenty and thirty years.

You say you want to tear down the houses for the improvement of Newark. You said with this 46 acres you will put up a medical

school, a medical school that will create jobs. I don't see how, because you have industry right now moving out of the City of Newark because they know what the tax rate will be with this school. Where do you get jobs? If you do get jobs, what kind will they be, janitors and maids? Our people have been doing this for 400 years and we don't need these kind of jobs no more. I don't see how you can create any kind of job that would benefit the black people of Newark, and that's what you're dealing with, the black people of Newark because we're the majority here. I don't see how you can sit there as a Planning Board and tell the people or tell us of Newark what you're going to do, you don't even live here. How can you sit there and tell me what is best for me and my children. How can you sit there time and time again knowing that the citizens are rebelling. This is a hearing by law to me. This is just a requirement that you are carrying out, a requirement that was passed by Mayor Addonizio and definitely the people that are backing him up, namely the mafia.

You play games. You're not even interested in what the people say. If you were paying attention you would see that the people here are not playing games. We are not going to be moved anymore. You pushed us into a corner, Mr. Cocuzza, you and the other people along with Mayor DiDonnillo and you know when you push an animal like a cat into a corner and he's trapped the cat will attack and a cat is a gentle animal. The same thing with people, when we have been pushed, when we can go no further, as you're doing now, it can only mean one solution to the problem.

I see day by day where you're tearing down houses in the 46 acres, maybe under private contract, but you are still doing it anyway, so therefore I have no other opinion but to believe you've already acted on this matter. From West Market Street and Hunterdon Street--or shall I say Morris Avenue up to Bergen Street, nearly the whole two blocks is cleared away and every time I go over that way I see more and more. What is this, Mr. Cocuzza, is this acted on by the Board or what? I would like an answer to that. Did

you order the houses torn down or what? Mr. Cocuzza, I don't see how you could sit there and understand what I am saying. Like I told you before, I believe you've already acted before the facts and this is one of the proofs. You're not even interested in what I am saying.

MR. COCUZZA: I am making notes for your benefit, so please continue.

MR. BEY: For my benefit or for yours? It can't be for my benefit because you don't know what I mean. You don't know what I want. You can't know because you're white and I'm black. You think you know what I want, or shall I say you know what you want for me. You're putting us in prisons like we're already in, those lousy compounds, those concentration camps twelve stories high. Its also a fact to me that if you are going to relocate the people from that area, you are going to put them in projects, thirteen stories high. You get up in the morning and you walk out in the hall and the hall is full of smoke from the incinerator, the doors haven't been lined and you go shopping on Saturday and you have to

walk nine flights up with groceries. What happens to that money that we spend, the money that is paid on our rent? You call it low rent income to help the poor black man. That's one of the biggest lies you ever told, not you personally, but Mr. Danzig because every time there's a raise in the family income, what happens, you take it right out of the rent. So if a man starts off making $50 and his rent is $43 he gets a $5 raise his rent is $48. He'll never get out of that hole you put him in. You're helping them, yes, to enslave the black man, that's what you're doing.

I notice Mr. Danzig is not here this morning and it disturbs me very much because I would like him to hear some of the things I am saying. I don't see anywhere in the City of Newark where you are building more houses and that's what the people need. We don't need a medical school. We need decent homes. There is construction now underway up in Orange, outside of East Orange, where decent housing is being built, built for you and your children but not for us. These are decent

houses with grass outside. You know what grass is because you see it every morning. I think I know what grass is because I used to see it.

Also note that within the 46 acres there are a lot of houses that also can be used again because all the houses aren't that bad. I know this area and there are a lot of buildings in which people can still stay in, there are a lot of buildings that can be saved.

You talk about building a medical school. I look over in that area and you see Newark College of Engineering, not too far from there is Branch Brook Park, not far from there is the Colonade Homes, right below there is Central High School. Now most of the people in the 46 acres that are high school level go to Central High School. What happens when you move these people out of this area and put them into another area, what happens with the school? You don't need it no more because you haven't got people in the area to go to it. What happens to the other schools? What happens when you move these people out and put them into another area where you have just enough

housing for the people there? You keep chopping up the building and make two, three rooms and rent it by the week. This isn't going to benefit the black man, its going to benefit you, all of you because we get nothing for it, we don't even own the houses. You take a man coming to another community, man that makes $80 a week, I believe that is what the average income is in this area, about $80 a week and some make less than that and how the hell can this man move into another area where the rent starts at $110 or $95 or $150 a month? How do we survive? Under the relocation law I think it states you don't have to give money to subsidize the rest of this income until a year later. Now in that year what happens? You haven't got no more money. What happens to those people that you put out, where do they go? How do they live? I don't think we should be here discussing the medical school now at this level, I think we should be discussing decent homes right here.

You can build the medical school, but you don't need 150 acres. You don't need 46 acres. You don't need ten acres. What do you

want it for? The only conclusion I can come to is a white buffer zone so the children can come down and don't have to face the people in the area. You realize what you're doing, Mr. Cocuzza, you and the other members of the Board? You're telling 30,000 black people to move out of this area, we're going to build a school here for our children. I don't think the people are going to take it. You see, Mr. Cocuzza, you and the other members of the Board, you know about revolution because you fought it, that's how you have the United States, you fought it, but I don't believe you know what a black revolution is. It's just like the black power movement that was in Africa, that was a black revolution and that's what you're bringing about right now, a black revolution. When I speak in terms of revolution, don't misconstrue the word, because might say you child is an agitator, he's a man that wants to start a riot. Believe me, that's the last thing I want but it might be the first thing you want because you say let them tear up the neighborhood, give them no houses, burn down everything and you would have the

land. Right? That's your idea. You see what I mean. I speak in terms of revolution. Like I said, you misconstrued the word. I'm there's another kind of revolution, its fought in many ways. Its being fought right now. We're fighting right now. This is one part of it. There are other parts and you know what they are because I told you, you fought it. The people here know, the black people are waking up and they know what it is. You know the young people are hard to control, as you can see. I think from April until now there have been twenty-seven or thirty riots across the country.

You go right down Market Street and Howard Street and you'll find a parking lot. Whose parking there? People from the Hall of Records, they got a big parking lot right in the back. So what is the parking lot for? Who is it for? The people who live in the area park their cars in the street. This is just another one of your movements, this all goes in with your plans. You're playing games, Mr. Cocuzza, you and the members of the Board. I don't know how you came to the conclusion that black people are stupid. I believe when you

started out to go about getting this land, building this school, you never even thought you would have this much opposition, did you? You never even thought that the black man here in Newark had the minds that they have now because you have been asleep, you have been moving away, you want to move. This is 1968, not 1868 and the black people are waking up. They are finding what is happening across the country. They have united. They have united to a big black mass, a mass of a revolution. Mr. Cocuzza, that's what you are faced with now, you and the members of the Board, a revolution. I want to say to you and the members of this Board and Mayor Addonizio, what do we have? What do we get out of this? We're not orphans. At the rate you are moving us out when my son is four or five he can't even get into school and they have a waiting list for school. So where are we going? That's not all, after you build the medical school you want something else and you'll want something else and what have you done, move the black people into one area, you'll create one hell of a ghetto and this happens to us then, Mr. Cocuzza,

do you know? Well I know and its not even going to get that far because we're not going to let you get it that far because we know what you're trying to do. We'll fight you anyway we have to. We'll fight you the legal way or we'll fight you any other way, but remember we don't fool around. A revolution in any organization is a lot of people that don't know even what they're doing, they work themselves into a frenzy. Have you ever thought if a riot was to happen to the city, not this city, but say like the riot in Watts, if those people had moved out of Watts to go to the downtown area, what would it have been today? Yes sir, maybe you don't care, I don't know. Maybe you just don't care. You sit there and look at me but I know what I am talking about. I have feelings. There's no limitation, Mr. Counts and other members of the Board, I have no limitations what I will do to stop it because all you're doing is trying to get our people out of the city. You made a mistake, you made a mistake because most of our people came up north and now we've just about taken over the city and you see what happens

or rather Mayor Addonizio seen what happened because he knows this is his last one, he don't come around no more and after 1970 you might not be sitting there, in fact you won't be sitting there. Like I said before, this is just a game you're playing today. Day by day you're tearing down houses and you tell the people to move. Whose tearing those houses down, Mr. Cocuzza, under whose orders are you tearing them down? Do you have an answer to that? I would like an answer, Mr. Cocuzza.

MR. COCUZZA: I have none at this time. Would you please continue.

MR. BEY: It seems mighty funny that you might consider this area blighted and you don't even know what's going on. You're planning for the area now and you don't even know anything about it. I feel you know but you don't want to say. I still want to know where the City of Newark is going to build decent houses for the people. Can you answer me that? I don't see nowhere you can relocate 30,000 people out of that area within even five years, in five years you couldn't even do it. You tore down houses to build

St Barnabas Hospital, our area, and you built nothing. In other areas over the city I see there's nothing but land sitting there, some of them have been that way for 45 years and nothing was built there. What is this land for? Why has nothing ever been built? The last houses that you built, the last public houses low rent was the ones that you built down on Spruce Street, I forget the name of them, that was the last ones I seen. You call them co-ops. Do you know what the requirements for a co-op is, Mr. Ocasio, do you know the requirements? Mr. Danzig stated this is one of the places where people can be relocated. I don't see how because you've got to have $900 in the bank to put down for a down payment but they just don't have it. You talk about medical conditions and everything else, how can conditions get that bad in the area as it is now. If somebody was doing their job from the city, somebody wasn't sleeping on the job it wouldn't happen, diseases and all that, this is probably the Department of Health and Welfare, that's their problem, they created it and they gave it to us and then they come to the area and say

all these diseases, we'll have to tear down this area. How did these diseases spread? Who let them go that far, the conditions of the houses? Who let things go that far? If you have a broken sprinkler or something you call the [illegible] up and the landlord says I'm trying to get around to it. Then you come to another [illegible] and he just don't have the money but he is trying to get it. You say you got two days to fix it, if its not fixed, you know what. He hasn't got any money, so he loses it.

Have you been into that area, Mr. Cocuzza? Has any member of the Board been in there also? Have you all seen the conditions? They're not our fault, they're yours, yours and the rest of the white people. What about homes, or shall I say families with kids, you know for yourself its hard as hell to get property in Newark with children, what about the families that have four or five children that live in three or four rooms now, where do they go? How do they pay their rent? No, Mr. Cocuzza, you don't know and you don't give a damn. You don't care because you go home at night and you sleep

and you get up in the morning and you come down here and play games. What happens to those people in this area, what happens when you take over that area, where do the people go? What happens when industry moves out of here? You know its got to go. Do they go to welfare? No, they don't go to welfare because the city hasn't got any more money and can't take care of them. What happens? The people have to stay out in the street and starve, they either starve or start moving. This is what you are trying to bring about. Mr. Cocuzza and members of the Board, I think you should just sit down and think of what the people have said and come up with a new plan. Don't you put that school in that 46 acre area. You can use ten acres, two acres, three acres and still have a modern school, but you don't want to create a problem that you have already done. I think you should just sit down and think about it.

MR. COCUZZA: Sir, your thirty minutes are up. If you wish. You may have ten minutes for summation.

MR. BEY: What can you do? What happens? Where do our people go? I really think you

should sit down, not only you, but with leaders of the community, the people that you see here, sit down [illegible] come up with a plan for our people because this is a plan not only for our people but you also. As I said before, where do they go? Where do they sleep? This is the problem that you have counted, Mr. Cocuzza, you and the other members of the Board and Mayor Addonizio wants a school. You can take that money that you get for the school and build a hell of a lot of houses. You say it is for the benefit of the City of Newark. I don't see how it is because with the school comes a lot of problems, taxes and everything else, industries start moving out because they go to other places and build factories, they can make it easier there than in Newark. You know, Mr. Cocuzza, and I do too, what happens to the city when industry moves out and there's no job, that's where most of our people work, in factories, what happens? They go to welfare and they say at welfare that they have no more money, the city is bankrupt, what happens then, Mr. Cocuzza, what happens to our people, where do they go then? But I'll tell you its not going to go that far because

we're not going to let it go that far. If you come up with the decision that this area is blighted, you will see what I am talking about. I told you before, I have no limitations as to what I will do because I have a wife and a son and I'm not going to see them stand by and watch them die while you're playing games, you and the Mayor, no sir. So when you make your decision, I hope you make the right one for your sake. I'm not worried about mine because if you make the wrong decision you'll see what happens. You tell me you don't care about me and when a man tells me he don't care about me, I don't care about him and then you've got a problem, you got two problems, you don't care about me and I don't care about you, but I ain't got nothing, so I ain't got nothing to lose and you have everything to lose. What happens then? The people that don't know this they count swallowing it and they count saying he should have nothing too. Suppose you had to live in that 46 acres, Mr. Cocuzza, I believe you would have committed suicide because you know what the conditions are there. Why don't you stand building new houses for the people. Mr. Cocuzza, you and members of

the Board, I told you before, you're playing games and its a hell of a game. I don't know if you know the consequences behind the game you are playing and I really hope that you never have to find out because its a hell of a answer, the solution to the game, believe me because I told you before, when you have nothing you can lose nothing and we have nothing and once you move us we don't even have nothing, less than nothing. You put a school in that area and you say there's jobs for the people, jobs making money for you, you get about $60 or $70 a week and then you raise the taxes, a State tax is brought in and the taxes go up again and you wind up with nothing and I don't see how these people can survive.

Mr. Cocuzza, and members of the Board, I would really like to sit down with you all, as I told you before, and re-evaluate everything, let's sit down with Mr. Donald, might we and come up with a decision for decent housing. You want to build a medical school, build it, take two acres to build your medical school but don't you put our people out. Why don't you gentlemen stop playing games and really start

looking for the betterment of the people of Newark, because we are the people you are dealing with, the black people, even your people in the city are protesting, they even told you the same thing I'm telling you now. Mr. Corrodo is not paying very much attention, like I said before, he has no need to because you know what you're going to say, you know what you're going to do and you know what you're already doing but you'd better stop it right now and start building decent homes for our people. You'd better start building decent housing in that area and I don't mean high rises because they are not the answer to our problem. We want decent houses, that's all we want and that's all we are here for. Either you come out of this thing as sensible men or you can come out as people who don't give a damn. I hope when you make your decision it will be the right one because as I told you before, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain. You have everything to lose and a whole lot to gain. So I tell you now, sit down, gentlemen, and try to act as sensible men, for once stand on your own. These people have woke up to what you are doing and we are going to fight

for ourselves now, that's what we're going to start doing because we don't care. My people, the black people of Newark, I hate to see them when they [illegible] going up to the suburbs, they're not going up there playing games, they will be coming up there, Mr. Cocuzza, since they haven't got nothing to lose, they will be coming up there to get something and I don't mean coming to borrow something either. Once the people of Newark see those people moving, then they are going to start moving and then what happens?

MR. COCUZZA: You have one more minute, sir.

MR. LEY: OK. Then what happens? They know you got yours. You will have a suburbia ghetto. If you want it to come to that, you and the members of the Board, just make the wrong decision. And you will see what I am talking about. It may sound like a [illegible], a fantastic dream, but it isn't. Make the wrong decision, Mr. Cocuzza, and you will see what I am talking about, you will see what you are doing. I am not the only one in this city who cares. We are all [illegible]. If you can't be sensible, then

you will find out. If you don't care about me, like you've already proved in the past, then I don't care about you. Like I told you before, there ain't no limitation that I will go to to stop you.

MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mr. James Simms.

Mr. Simms, will you please step forward and give the reporter your name and address.

MR. SIMMS: My name is James Simms and I reside at 106 South Orange Avenue, Newark.

Gentlemen of the Board and Mr. Cocuzza, the Chairman, I'm glad to see you are happy, but what is your overall plan for this medical school? What are you doing? What are you trying to bring into Newark, money or education?

MR. COCUZZA: May I interrupt you, Mr. Simms?

MR. SIMMS: Yes, you can interrupt me if you care to.

MR. COCUZZA: Sir, to be sure we all understand, this is a public hearing covering this item by [illegible] Public Service, South Orange Avenue and Twelfth Avenue, the hearing is being conducted for the purpose of

making a determination only as to whether it is blight or not.

MR. SIMMS: What are you trying to do with this medical school? I just asked a question and I can't get an answer.

MR. COCUZZA: I have no further answer for you. I want you to know this is a blight hearing for that area in question. Please continue.

MR. SIMMS: As far as the masses of black people that you are going to uproot and disperse unscrupulously throughout the city, which is becoming more and more clear to me and my people, the essence that something that is to occur will be on your conscience, I guess you have a conscience, as far as implying people as a unit of so called intelligent men as yourselves, I don't see how in the world you can sit there and just have a blight hearing, because evidently your mind was made up, for an old type mistrial where we are look at a white person and actually see how they think because they can't actually control their emotions as far as facial expressions and gestures. But you're thinking now, right, as far as I am concerned, you don't

care about me, my people, their houses or their education, this is all evident, this is all coming to light in one package, we are going to disperse these people, as you are thinking into ghettos, I say institutions, which you call Federal projects, breaking up the black vote throughout the city because its evident that you have put your plan in the paper. Now, these people have children of all ages in this city that one day we hope that they could actually grow up and be someone and you are denying them this chance.

Now Mr. Bradley, you are sitting there and you're thinking, of course you are all thinking men, but your thoughts are all wrong. Now anybody can get up and talk to you, this is all good, but does our speaking to you have any bearing on your minds whatsoever, even though its already made up. You sit there and you limit my time and you limit everybody's time to thirty minutes, thirty-five minutes. I could talk to you white people for ever but it still won't have any bearing on your thoughts. You might as well be your dear Miss brother Wallace from the most derogatory state in this

Union, Board of Medical Appeals, and let him have his say, as far as what, I don't know.

May I ask you, Mr. Chairman, where is this medical school supposed to be coming from? May I ask this question, please, sir?

MR. COGUZZA: Mr. Simms, may I please remind you that this is a blight hearing covering only the lands and buildings within the area described before. After all the presentations have been made and evaluated, then it is the function of the Planning Board to determine whether it is blight or not blight, that is the function of the Planning Board and the purpose of this hearing. Please continue.

MR. SIMMS: As far as it being blight, as far as your hearing, you're going to hear a lot of voices, you're going to be here a long time and you're going to be here and you're going to hear a lot of people talking. As far as taking all this land, you keep going up on acreage. Why so much acreage? I can't ask any questions and I can't get any answers. If I holler I am belligerent. If I start swinging I am militant. If I am quiet I am good. But I don't feel as though I should be quiet, I

have to talk to you. This is the only reasonable way that I can see at the present moment, but evidently my talking is going to die down and another brother and another sister will come after me and after them there will be another brother and another sister and then also another brother and another sister and so on and so on and so on and so on. Because we are for this city, we're very much in this city, as you know. Hell, you sit up there and some of you say yes, I'm for civil rights, I'm for the right thing. You know damn well you don't care about us black folks and you never will. As far as it being a blight hearing, I believe this is my time to speak on the blight hearing and I feel that there is a perpetration on the black people, I think its an all out plan to gradually disperse my people, move them around, keep the masses moving. All of you are sitting up there with your smug look, you're satisfied, you're satisfied because you got yours but I want mine and my brothers and sisters want theirs for their children also. This is not going to solve any of the problems you have or will have, you're just going to make

it worse, that's all. You want us to have pride in Newark and you keep going up on acreage. How much acreage do you want? I know you want 200 and it keeps going up. You don't need that [illegible] and a little [illegible], you know it and we all know it. Why don't you just stand up like men with a backbone and tell us look, this is it, men, this is it, we're just going to put it here and there's nothing else we can do. This is the way I feel. This is the way I see it. You've taken land already and what are you going to do, are you going to [illegible], watch us like hope that you [illegible], build down [illegible], but we look, we could sit down and look at this junk on television too, but you're using old strategy, war tactics, but men, that's not it. A lot of us know strategy. The decision is up to you. So you see, strategy should be put to use or shall you be--I should say the word decent, but evidently I can't use that word, let's see--a more appropriate word would be negotiable men and listen to every single word that every black person has to say to you, listen to it and let it bear down on your minds. You can all

get up and walk out, like the secretary that did, I don't know where he went. If I'm supposed to be here at a blight hearing, I expect to have the respect of the so called appointed officials here, sitting here, giving me the respect to be heard, to hear my words and to hear my speach. The next time I speak, it won't be here, the words will not be as soft as I am speaking now because I will be shouting at the top of my lungs with one word, a four letter word and you heard that one before. I am angry with you. I know what you have on your minds. You look at me and say oh yes, he's angry. Of course I'm angry. You have twelve year old black children that are angry at you too because you are perpetrating this big medical center in the heart of their neighborhood. Where will they play? Where will they go? I ask you, where will they go, to another one of your institutions, one of your [illegible] You [illegible] them in the projects and all they can do is mess up a couple of elevators and hurt each other, that's all. This has been your characteristics for so many years, so many [illegible] years, as shown [illegible] you

are, how very false. I'm getting tired of talking. How many minutes do I have, Mr. Chairman, sir?

MR. COCUZZA: You have already spoken ten minutes, sir.

MR. SIMMS: I will speak on, even though I am tired.

What kind of billing would it have if the Board would actually go out and look at these sites? Has this been done, Mr. Chairman?

MR. COCUZZA: May I answer in this manner, please, before the Board makes a complete determination after evaluating all the evidence in toto, we will visit the site in question.

MR. SIMMS: How in the hell then can you tear down these buildings when you didn't looked at them yet. You're tearing down buildings right now. That's what I want to hear out of you, you're tearing down right now and you haven't even been down there and looked at it.

MR. COCUZZA: Mr. Simms, this other visit I speak of will be the second one. We have been there prior to the tearing down of

any dwellings.

MR. SIMMS: How many? How many? What about the third and the fourth ones? The first one has been approved, am I right to assume this, Mr. Chairman, sir?

MR. COCUZZA: I didn't hear the question.

MR. SIMMS: I says, was the first site approved?

MR. COCUZZA: I am not speaking about the first, second or third site, I am speaking about the first visit by the Board within the area we are describing, therefore that was prior to tearing down of any buildings. Continue.

MR. SIMMS: And you tore them down. Now you're going to make a second visit, second visit for more land for the medical school. All right, let's see now. The City Hospital, yeah, well the City Hospital you already got a hospital in that area.

MR. CROOMS: An experimental center.

MR. SIMMS: I was trying to actually define it because I didn't have a real definition for this place. St Michael's and oh yes, [illegible]abas, that's where all you white

folks go, that's where you go for checkups. Don't you have a bad ticker? You look like you have one. Anyway, Beth Israel, Presbyterian. You have at least six large hospitals and now you're going to bring in a medical school. For what? This is no joke. This is no joke. You can laugh all you want. You can laugh until you die with a big smile on your face. That's the way you want to go, with a big smile on your face. Just wait there. Anyway, you're going to get this medical center, I heard rumors, I don't know if its rumors or not, that this thing was coming from Alabama, a Wallace man or something like that and you're going to put this thing right in the middle of the black neighborhood and just tell us black folks that this is it, you got to move, we're going to put this thing here / regardless of what you say or how you act. But I'm going to tell you, we can act very persistently, at times when black people get to be a unit they work very persistently and if you vote for it on your second visit that you will need this land, you are just jeopardizing a whole lot of lives. I mean you probably got

a bomb shelter somewhere, bomb shelters can be attacked too. As far as making threats or anything like that, I don't condone that, I just make a point clear. After you make the second visit maybe you will say we don't need that much land, but are you going to tear down those houses and are you still going to move all those black people around? Where will they go? Where are they going to go? I see you're building more Federal projects out by Branch Brook Park, around Franklin Avenue. The Mayor has already approved this, I guess you are going to give the black people a chance, you know, and put them up there so they can't vote, all they can do is vote for Pagliacci, you know. This is absolutely wrong. You're going about it the wrong way. If you do, you'll have a revolution on your hands. I say you're going to do nothing but cause harm and conflict to a city, a whole city being raped by a man like you and your colleagues. It seems you don't care. I don't believe you even reside in Newark. I do know you don't live in Newark. I won't ask you that question because you're going to go through a whole lot

of riguarole, but you don't live in Newark, do you? Do you live in Newark?

MR. COCUZZA: Mr. Simms, I would like to answer by saying that question has been asked and answered.

MR. SIMMS: You do live in Newark?

MR. COCUZZA: The record shows that we all live in Newark.

MR. SIMMS: You all live in Newark, now this is good. You live in Newark, but I bet its on the fringes of the Irvington line, maybe the East Orange line. You don't live in the heart of the city. You don't live close to the medical site, I believe. Maybe you live a little further than that, don't you, Mr. Chairman, sir?

MR. COCUZZA: Please continue, all these questions have been asked and answered.

MR. SIMMS: I don't know this. I mean, as a black man standing here I would like an answer because I didn't hear it. If I don't get an answer then I don't know. Are you saying that I don't rate an answer?

MR. COCUZZA: At the end of the hearing when all the presentations have been made and

typed up, you will be afforded the opportunity to read the record.

MR. SIMMS: That's all I wanted to know. Thank you. I am sure by that time you will be down to Miami, no, probably you will be down to Alabama with George and Lorene.

Were you born in Newark?

MR. COCUZZA: I didn't hear you.

MR. SIMMS: Were you born in Newark?

MR. COCUZZA: I was born on the other side, Brooklyn, New York.

MR. SIMMS: What I am talking about is as far as your partying and having fun, when you go out, do you go out in Newark?

MR. COCUZZA: I didn't hear you.

MR. SIMMS: As far as your going out and entertaining yourself, I'll say that, entertaining yourself, as you entertain yourself in Newark?

MR. COCUZZA: Very much.

MR. SIMMS: Very much.

MR. COCUZZA: Especially here in council chambers.

MR. SIMMS: I guess you do. You do crack a lot of jokes around and it shows. You see, if

you were to sit there more of a man with a stern look on your face you could get by, but you laugh too much, you're a joker. We're not joking. We may be smiling but we're not joking. That old grin is not for a tap dance. If you keep going and coming and visiting the sites and taking land and you come and go, you're actually stealing. Now this is going to be an uncontrollable thing if you make this decision and its wrong. You already made one wrong decision, as far as you gentlemen are concerned, I joke on this, you have had your part in the medical school and another group of gentlemen had a part in the Board of Education hearing. I say you, because all of you guys look alike to me, that's what you used to tell me, but you got your perpetration of a secretary to the Board of Education and then you're going to give some jive on school and then you're probably going to run the highway through. Oh yes, I heard about you building a rodeo in the city, rodeo. How can you have the gall to build a rodeo, this is a northern city, we may have a couple of cowboys on horses riding around, but a rodeo, I mean you really are trying

to give it to us, we can see this. We can see this and feel it. You don't care about us black folks and us black folks are getting to the point where we don't care about you white folks. When it comes down to it its just going to be black or white man and its all going to be red blood, because I am willing to spill some of it if the decision is made wrong. If a man can sit down and negotiate over a matter and come up with a right decision, and know its right and be satisfied, then I can call him a man, but if he comes in with the wrong decision and knows its the wrong decision, but still comes up with the wrong decision, I call him less than a snake, less than a skunk. If the decision is made like this, its not solving anything, its not solving the anger that is being built up, the tension that is being built up of being pushed, being crowded into some quarters of hell. Its wrong, that's all I can say, its wrong if you pass the decision to take more and more land.

I'm still getting tired of talking and talking and talking, but--

MR. COCUZZA: You have ten more minutes.

for your presentation.

MR. SIMMS: I'll still talk, don't worry about that.

MR. COCUEZA: You have ten more minutes.

MR. SIMMS: All right, I heard you. I heard you. Things are coming to a head. Its about time somebody started making some right decisions around here. If you don't care, we don't either, you know. I mean you don't have too much to do. If you close the hood, we won't have no hood. I don't think you're going to employ too many people as doctors in this medical school to teach students. I don't even know where the students are going to come from. Where in the world are you going to get the students from? I just can't see why and how you can do this, I just can't see it. The money may be good, that's probably the main thing. You got it there, the money. I mean, without money you can't sit there. All you gentlemen [illegible], you probably get about [illegible] cents, I don't know, but you're there. As far as making decisions, you're going to tear it down, I can see it, I can see it. I don't care

what you say, you're going to put it there, you're going to put it there. I know you're going to put it there. My brothers and sisters [illegible] But you shouldn't take too much land, not too much, you shouldn't have took any at all, but [illegible] people to thinking about themselves. On this question of the [illegible], you're standing down already and right in back of your Hall of Records by the way, I know you're going to put a big prison, I seen the plans for it, I seen the plans for it two years ago, a great big prison, am I right or don't I rate an answer, Mr. Chairman, sir, or may I ask that question or rephrase it, Mr. Chairman, is it true that you're going to put a prison in the back of the Hall of Records, sir?

MR. COCUZZA: That question, sir, is not relevant to the subject in question.

MR. SIMMS: I understand that.

MR. COCUZZA: Personally, I don't know.

MR. SIMMS: I understand that.

MR. COCUZZA: You have five more minutes.

MR. SIMMS: I was just asking for general

information.

They're working very diligently on this, very diligently. I know they're working like beavers over there. All over in that section they are just working up a sweat and pushing [illegible] but in fact of course [illegible] people. If my voice has any weight in this matter in helping you [illegible] up your mind, I am very grateful, but I doubt it, I doubt it because you have already started tearing down, you've chased people out, you've chased them out of their streets. Now once they get to the schools they have no where else to go and they are going to start looking around. Now where can they go? Where do you think they'll go? I'll leave the question with you, you just think where they'll go.

MR. COCUZZA: Thank you very much.

We will take a five minute recess.

(A recess is taken.)

MR. COCUZZA: The recess is ended.

The next speaker is Mr. Clinton Bey. Please step forward and give your name and address to the reporter.

MR. BEY: Clinton Bey, 134½ Newton Street, Newark, black liberation center.

MR. COCUZZA: You have thirty minutes to make your presentation.

MR. CROOMS: Can I raise a point of information?

MR. COCUZZA: If it will take only a half a minute.

MR. CROOMS: I understand there are ten members on the total Board, is that correct?

MR. COCUZZA: I don't hear you.

MR. CROOMS: How many members are on the Planning Board that are supposed to be here?

MR. COCUZZA: Four members are not present.

MR. CROOMS: I didn't ask you that. I asked you how many members are on the Board?

MR. COCUZZA: The public record indicates there are nine members.

MR. CROOMS: There are nine members that are supposed to be at the hearing?

MR. COCUZZA: That answers your question.

MR. CROOMS: It doesn't answer the question.

MR. COCUZZA: Will you get off the floor.

Mr. Bey, this is your microphone.

MR. CROOMS: You can't split us anymore. Now I asked you a question, will you answer it?

MR. COCUZZA: I did answer the question.

MR. CROOMS: You did not.

MR. COCUZZA: Nine members.

MR. CROOMS: There are nine members?

MR. COCUZZA: Yes.

MR. CROOMS: You don't have any rules as far as a quorum goes?

MR. COCUZZA: That is correct. As far as the Public hearing goes the business does not specifically state that a quorum is necessary. Read the minutes, read the duly enacted and you will get the answer. Thank you very much.

Mr. Bey, please.

MR. BEY: My brother said you don't have a quorum here or that the rest of the members are supposed to be here, I don't know the rules, but if he is correct and there is supposed to be a nine member Board here, I don't feel like I

should be standing here talking to only five of you. I would like to have this point straightened out here. Is there supposed to be nine?

MR. COCUZZA: Anything you say is being recorded, sir.

MR. BEY: Are there supposed to be nine?

MR. COCUZZA: Please continue, sir.

MR. BEY: Just to furnish you with some more entertainment, that's what you called it when my brother was talking. Coming down here one more time, for the last time, in our nation, which consists of 46 acres, the first 46 acres where you planned to build or erect a medical school site, which I guess will make Newark the medical center of the universe, because as a brother before me stated, you have hospitals, that wonderful up there called the City Hospital and a whole host of hospitals around and now in the heart of our nation, that land bordered by South Orange Avenue, West Market from Bergen down to Norfolk, which you are here trying to determine whether it is blighted or not, and the definition for the term blighted escapes me at the moment, but it

seems to me not only here in Newark but in other cities, for instance, Buffalo or Watts or California, any other place, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, that the concentration of our people in any area, as far as you are concerned, we can use the term blighted.

You know, I come down to this building here and stand up here and I get nauseated, I feel like I have to vomit because anytime a black man comes into this place all he has to do is look around him, to the left of him, to the right of him and he sees a whole host of perpetrators, such as you, whose pictures I guess next year will probably be hanging on this wall or will be hanging on these walls as great fathers of Newark, and as we look upon these faces I don't see a black face hanging anywhere on these walls. You're going to tear down our area to get your portraits hung on this side wall for establishing a greater Newark, for bringing a medical school center in Newark and in our nation by moving out our people to go live and fend for themselves anywhere so that you can control and keep control of Newark.

It appears to me that somewhere along the line the winds have changed, if you have noticed, because most of you have noticed, I'm sure, are older than I am, you have seen this city controlled by the Irish, you've seen it controlled by the Italians and now you see in the winds the control of this city going to the black people, but for their location and their numbers you can still control them, but if you relocate them, run them out of the city by using [illegible], the highways in the neighborhood, the medical school center, by using these methods, you can still control Newark.

In appealing to your conscience and to your pride, before we appeal to your hide, we would just like you to know, we like you to look at history and take a lesson from it and see that the means of control are being negotiated not only here but down at the Board of Education and every other channel, every other means that we have and still you're holding on fighting, fighting and fighting and in the manner you are doing it you are turning this whole thing into one of the biggest race wars, I say race war, I don't mean just here in

Newark, because the same type of Planning Board, the same type of machinery runs throughout this United States, you're turning this thing into one of the biggest race wars that this world has ever seen. You're even pitting this man over here in his blue uniform and his badge who works for a meager salary and has trouble of his own and wants a better life [illegible] for his family too, you're even turning him, who has all the rights in the world to stand up here cussin' you out too and fighting for his betterment, for his place in the sun, his better city for his child, you're turning him, so when anything breaks out in Newark he's going to say, he's going to turn his [illegible] out on our people, kill them black so and so's up and down the street, they ain't no good, no good for [illegible] have you.

You've known of the Italian and of the Irish Revolution, you've known of the Cuban Revolution and you see, whether you hate to admit it, whether you want to identify what

Dean Rusk or the rest of them, wars of liberation all over this world by oppressed people. We are part of that oppressed people.

As for you, because I think Newark is in a unique situation, very unique because I think you have seen, up to this podium up to this place, a whole host of angry black people trying earnestly and sincerely to negotiate and in essence saying we want to live, we want to live and you sit back nonchalantly with a I don't give a damn attitude and say I give entertainment at this Planning Board hearing. We don't get no entertainment down in our nation in the first 46 acres, and we call it the first 46 because that is the first area that is supposed to be gone, that's what you called blighted, but we got programs and plans for that nation of ours and we want housing in that area. We want play schools. We're going to have play streets in that area. We want that area to live, to live, not as it is now but better and not to bring in and to move out our people to live in these high rise stockades, we don't want that. I am saying, "Don't want" because I

have said enough times to you and many more like you that we are not going to hide and we ain't going to move. Now that's exactly the position that our government has taken down in the 46 acres, because whether you want to believe it or not, there is a nation of people here in Newark and elsewhere within a nation and we are trying now to negotiate before the thing comes to a Viet Nam, then you have to negotiate after a great deal of bloodshed. Newark doesn't need a riot, they're people don't want it, but there is a difference in a riot, a [illegible] in a revolt and a [illegible] in a revolution and I know that you know these differences.

There was a time when I was in law school that I thought that the way to my people existed through law, as they were on the books or as we could force them through in court and then when I came down to actually looking at the role that the law was always playing in just dismantling, killing, robbing, dehumanizing our people and even the lawyers themselves, you know it got kind of sick. I could understand Premier Castro if you can't,

because at the end of the row when we had to turn around, turn in the courtroom and look up--and say the man is arbitrating in the United Nations, but then at the end of the row you stand up and you see Justice Goldberg and a few others and present your case to them and you were saying after it was all over "Great white father, hear my plea". We're tired of that. We're tired of that.

This Planning Board, of the five of you there, not one of you is black. The Board of Education the same situation. Yet, when you do get one up there, he has a black face and a white mind. This is the type of method you all have used, are using to steal, but the winds have changed, the time for that is over and now for the City of Newark a medical school center when the population is well over 50 percent black people in the city, but the winds have changed. Then you, with no conscience, as soon as they get out of that damnable Robert Treat School, you put them in a uniform and then place a gun in a black boy's hand and say go to Viet Nam, fight for freedom and democracy. Then he comes back to Rutgers

Street and within a few years he's got nothing but wine bottles, Gypsy Rose, Gallo Port, his mind is shot. He's done killed people and he don't know why he's done killed them for. He doesn't give a damn. He doesn't give a damn about his children because he can't be a man to them. He doesn't give a damn about his home. He doesn't give a damn about anything. All he wants is 51 cents in the morning and 51 cents in the afternoon and the world can go to hell. Then you wonder why we walk down the street in such a straight line and say "Get the hell out of my way, white man, you move, not me, walk around me."

Then the use of your women to set the standards of beauty, so much so that our women have to go out and deface and disfigure themselves by going out and wearing these damn wigs, this is the dehumanizing aspect of your educational institutions, such as television, because that's the greatest university you got going for you.

The minds have changed. I come down here because my people said they want to see you down there, they want to hear you down

there, because you were down there before and we want to know are you still with this thing. I come down here and you talk about furnishing entertainment. Yeah, yeah, our nation and our government exists and you will find that they and the rest of us every day in the first 46 and beyond it, all over Newark, because believe me in coming out of these institutions that you people so well provided for me and my people, these colleges and universities which produce, if allowed to run rampant, black men, black women with white minds, coming out of those factories, many of us, many of us never got that type of education, if anything we did get, is how best to use this mind and this head for the benefit of our people and to take and follow whatever steps are necessary to bring about the liberation, the liberation of our people, [illegible] because its like a chain which stretches all across this country and outside of it.

As I said many times before, western civilization, which has taught our people to use the fork and spoon and knife at the table, these civilizations which have gone on before

and which will continue to go on, that we people who once, once learned to use these utensils, as you call them, can also learn to use chopsticks because many other people use them, or use their fingers. I see you looking and I know that you get the message.

Newark, again, is unique because many of those who could take heads and will take heads are talking, talking and saying let's negotiate because Newark will not have a riot because its not needed, its not in the best interest of our people, it won't happen, a riot.

Now if you gentlemen, as my brother said, he uses that term very loosely, if you want to operate in the best interest of Newark, the people of Newark, of the ghetto ridden areas of Newark, be they Italian, Irish, Puerto Rican or black, then you will recommend, you will recommend that they move this thing somewhere else, that they take the site to some other area. I say that in all earnestness, fairness and in all sincerity because I want to live, I want to live. The decision that you make on this thing is going to determine whether I and

many more of our people live and you yourself, it has a great deal to do with the longevity of your lives and our lives and the longevity of Newark as a city. We can really make Newark into something to be proud of when we stop dealing under the table and in the closets with government officials, city, local and federal and stop recruiting Toms--I don't know what you call them in the other races, traders, conspirators, stop dealing in that manner and look [illegible] let's do [illegible] the City of Newark. Can't you feel the tension in the air? Can't you smell it?

Don't listen to people talking about Newark and other tense cities, because what goes on in Newark the people of Newark will decide and how it goes on and we are here in the manner of intelligent people telling you, and voicing the opinions of our people and especially those in the med site area especially those in the first 46 to say we want to live, don't bring that thing here.

I hope I have furnished adequate entertainment because I will come no more to entertain. If you think this is a clown,

gentlemen, then you had better review some attitudes and opinions because these are black minds at work with a dedication and determination to do all in our power to liberate our people from the oppression that they are now in in the City of Newark. Most of us have studied and are studying--

MR. COCUZZA: You have five more minutes, six.

MR. REY: --from the best minds that this world has ever produced and how to do this, we have learned in our learning our lessons well from the best revolutionary minds. This table could easily be square and black men and white men and Puerto Ricons and Irish and what have you can be sitting around earnestly dealing with the problems of Newark and not a great deal of junk. You know it took quite a bit and it takes quite a bit of effort to stand here and try to speak and talk in the manner that you will understand, its a slowing process mainly because if we go back long enough English was not our native tongue in the beginning. As you know, we all have difficulty with this language and unless we pass

through your factories, some of us never, ever, you know, get it out, it takes a great deal of effort because the nation of people from where we came, our lingo, dances, are vibrant, jubilant, loving, full of love because we're not a nation of killers, never were, devils and what have you, we're peaceful people, our nature is peaceful and we could only have been a peaceful and loving to have existed all these years from one type of slavery to another type.

You know the history. Everybody who gets up here tells you 400 and 500 and 300 years. One hundred years out of slavery with the chains on our legs to get into 300 years of slavery with chains in our minds. So, you know our nature is that of a peaceful people. We are now at a point, at a boiling point--what is it, 212 degrees Fahrenheit, well what is the boiling point, you know what it is?

MR. CORRODO: One hundred and eighty.

MR. BEY: I figured I would get a correction. We can always depend upon a correction. We are at that point when a peaceful people are determined, as you know the Viet Namese, take an example from the Viet Namese,

a peaceful people who are determined to free themselves from oppression, there's no ingenuity, no wisdom, no understanding, no knowledge as great as that which comes forth to accomplish the job that they have to do.

The medical school, gentlemen, can not and will not on our solemn word exist in the City of Newark where you have now said you want to put it. This is a promise. Our lives are on it and behind it. Do not buck the winds of change. Thank you.

MR. COCUZZA: We are not unmindful of your problems and this Board will take that into consideration when making a determination. Please have faith.

This hearing has lasted for more than thirty hours and seven days. During this time the Board has heard approximately 80 speakers representing a variety of points of view. The Board has also noticed a large amount of repetition in the statements made during the last few sessions. For these reasons, the Board feels that it has received amply sufficient testimony for it to reach a reasonable conclusion as to whether the area

in question is blighted or not. Therefore, the Board would like to announce that the hearing is hereby concluded. Before closing the hearing, however, the Board wants to announce that anyone who wishes to submit additional statements or evidence can do so by submitting it in writing during the next ten days, that is July 10th 1967. The record of the hearing will be held open for ten days and any written statements submitted will be entered into the record and duly considered by the Board as if they had been presented orally. All communications shall be addressed to The Chairman, Central Planning Board, City Hall, Newark. After the ten day period has elapsed, the Board will begin a review and study of all testimony and statements entered into the record. After duly studying this material, the Board will announce publicly its decision. The Board will also try to answer as many of the questions posed by the various speakers as possible.

(The hearing is adjourned.)

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